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LETTER DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement dated 10 February 1994 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation containing a request for the urgent convening of the Security Council to consider practical ways to demilitarize Sarajevo and to introduce there a United Nations administration.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Y. M. VORONTSOV

Annex

STATEMENT DATED 10 FEBRUARY 1994 BY THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The NATO Council has approved a statement on the Bosnian crisis. In the statement, the Council calls upon all sides - both the Serbs and the Muslims - urgently to place the heavy weapons deployed in the Sarajevo area under United Nations control or to withdraw them from the area. In essence, this is close to our position. Russia has repeatedly put forward the initiative for the urgent demilitarization of Sarajevo and the setting up in that city of administrative control by the United Nations. We believe that such measures are a major step towards an overall settlement of the Bosnian conflict.

We also express satisfaction that the NATO Council, just like Russia, has reaffirmed support for negotiations as the way to resolve the conflict in Bosnia. This is the approach that requires the world community to bring vigorous pressure to bear on all the parties to the conflict.

Unfortunately, the position of a number of NATO members reflects an attempt to interpret the statement as a one-sided ultimatum to the Bosnian Serbs, who are being threatened by air strikes.

The Russian Federation cannot agree with such one-sidedness.

We are also convinced that the decisions with regard to ending the siege of Sarajevo must be taken by the Security Council, as we proposed two weeks ago already. Unfortunately, Russia's proposal was not accepted. At the same time, this issue was brought before the NATO Council, which, as is well known, has no authority to take decisions on the substance of a settlement in Bosnia. Earlier, the United Nations Secretary-General had proposed that NATO should submit information on the Alliance's readiness to use air power if that was requested by the United Nations. A decision on such a request must be taken by the Secretary-General after consultation with the members of the Security Council. This procedure, established by the Security Council, must be followed unswervingly.

A few hours prior to the announcement of the NATO decision, there came reports that the Bosnian Serbs and Muslims, through mediation by the United Nations, had reached an agreement on a cease-fire and on specific measures concerning the withdrawal of weapons from Sarajevo. Hasty decisions outside the United Nations framework are fraught with the risk of disrupting this reassuring process. Headway towards a settlement of the conflict is possible only if neither side gains advantages in the course of implementation of the demilitarization measures undertaken by the United Nations forces.

The Russian Federation requests an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council to consider practical ways to demilitarize Sarajevo and to introduce a United Nations administration there. We suggest that such a meeting should be open for participation in the discussion not only to the Security Council members but also to the other countries concerned, especially those

whose military contingents are deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This should reflect the genuine partnership among the members of the world community which has begun to take shape in our interrelationships in the interests of a lasting and just peace.